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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-second session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Item 4 (b)

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

1. At its 14th meeting, on 20 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the medium-term plan for the period of 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 16)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of them. He also recommended that the Committee approve an additional revision consisting of the addition of the words "and social" after the words "economic" in the second sentence of paragraph 16.2.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposed revisions, including the division of subprogramme 6 into two subprogrammes — Trade development and Industrial restructuring and enterprise development — since those subjects represented a major economic challenge for countries with economies in transition. However, some concern was also expressed about the division of subprogramme 6 since it was

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considered that trade, industry and enterprise development were issues that should remain in the same subprogramme. It was also expressed with concern that the creation of a new subprogramme 9 could have no other effect than expanding Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) bureaucracy.

4. It was pointed out that no reference to the side-effects of the ongoing process of enlargement of the European Union had been included in the proposed revisions. It was further stated that, in view of the expertise of ECE in a number of sectors, such as trade and trade facilitation and enterprise development, the revisions should include reference to the assistance that ECE could be in a position to provide to other regional commissions in those areas.

5. The view was expressed that the outcomes of international conferences did not constitute a sufficient basis for changing the mandates or overall orientation of ECE, and regional commissions should follow or implement those broad outlines in a way that was relevant to their core functions and served their members' interests and needs. Also, the ECE secretariat should seek intergovernmental agreement for its proposals at the commission level before presenting them to the Committee for consideration.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 16.13

Add the following new subparagraph (f):

"(f) Performance of the necessary administrative functions to maintain and update the 'Compendium of Candidate Regulations for Harmonization' and 'Registry for Global Regulations' associated with the 1998 'Agreement Concerning the Establishment of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts Which Can Be Fitted and/or Be Used on Wheeled Vehicles', to enable the Agreement to become fully operational."

Paragraph 16.33 (d)

Add at the end of the subparagraph the words "in accordance with WTO regulations".

Paragraph 16.34 (a)

Insert the words "new and/or updated" between the words "the number of" and the words "ECE trade facilitation".

Paragraph 16.34 (b)

Retain the original indicator as another item.

Paragraph 16.34 (c)

Retain the original indicator as a new one.

Paragraph 16.49 (c)

Replace the words "the number of" with the words "the delivering of assistance to" and insert the words "with a view to" after the words "countries with economies in transition".